

# FAQ's

## Registration

- ♥ **Do I have to register to participate?**
  - ♥ Yes, everyone who wants to participate in any event needs to register. This is important because all participants need to sign a waiver. The only way to receive a t-shirt is to register.
- ♥ **Is there a deadline?**
  - ♥ No! You can register up until the day of the event.
  - ♥ Anyone who registers on or before February 19<sup>th</sup> will have their items mailed prior to event weekend.
  - ♥ Anyone who registers on or after February 20<sup>th</sup> will have to pick up on March 16<sup>th</sup> or event day, March 17<sup>th</sup> (see packet pick-up section for more details)
- ♥ **Can I register on event weekend?**
  - Yes, we will have event day registration beginning at 6:00 am. Day-of registration occurs at the First Financial Building (corner of 5<sup>th</sup> + Sycamore St). Registering event weekend does not guarantee that you will receive a shirt.
- ♥ **Can I switch events after I have already registered?**
  - You can switch events by emailing [heartmini@heart.org](mailto:heartmini@heart.org). If you are switching between any of the races (1/2 marathon, 15K or 5K race) AFTER FEB 19, 2024, you'll need to pick up a new bib at packet pick-up on March 16<sup>th</sup> (at Messer Construction) or at registration (at First Financial Building) on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. You will also need to pay the difference in price. Anyone switching to the 5k walk will not need a new bib.
- ♥ **Can I get a refund after I have registered?**
  - No, all entries to the Heart Mini are non-refundable. After we have received and accepted your entry, we cannot issue a refund or defer your registration to the next year.
- ♥ **Is there a price increase?**
  - Yes – There is a \$5 increase starting March 8, 2024 at Noon. This rate increase applies to only adult events, except Steps for Stroke. 1.5k Kids Race, 5k Kids Heart Walk, and 1k Steps for Stroke are all exempt from the price increase!
- ♥ **Are there age limits for events?**
  - Yes – please see below:
    - ½ Marathon & 15K – ages 15 and up
    - 5K Race - ages 8 and up
    - 1.5K Kids Race – ages 5-12
    - 5K Kids Walk – ages 12 and under
- ♥ **When does online registration close?**
  - ♥ NO! The website will be open for registration until 11:00am on March 17<sup>th</sup>. If you register after Feb 19, you will need to come to packet pick-up at Messer Construction on March 16<sup>th</sup> or registration (in the First Financial building) on March 17<sup>th</sup> to get your shirt + bib. It WILL NOT be mailed to you. See below for more details.
- ♥ **Will there be cash/change at the Mini?**
  - ♥ NO. The Mini will be a cashless event. We will be accepting cash donations but we will NOT have change if you choose to pay the registration fee with cash.
- ♥ **Is there virtual registration?**
  - ♥ Yes! There is a question during registration (same page when asking t-shirt size) asking if you would like to participate virtually or not. In our 'more details' section on the website, there is a virtual participant flyer with more information. We will send a form for you to input your time. Your time will be added to the official race result website 1 week after the Mini.
  - ♥ Note: Even if you participate virtually, if you register after Feb 19, you will need to pick up your race packet.
- ♥ **How will survivors be recognized?**
  - Those who choose to be recognized as a survivor by indicating so during registration, will be highlighted on event day! Our heart and stroke survivors will wear special red race bibs, finish their run or walk through the survivor chute and be guests at the VIP Breakfast. There will also be a survivor bell on the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> + Broadway St to take pictures!

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## Awards

- **Are there awards?**
- Yes! Your tax-deductible registration fee includes the Heart Mini t-shirt and medals for all **races**. Medals for the 5K Heart Walk will only be available to Heart Throbs, those who raise \$1,000.
- Additional awards will be distributed for each of the chip timed events (1/2 marathon, 15k, 5k race, 1.5 kids race).
  - Top overall awards will be based on gun time and will be presented to the top 3 overall males and females in each of the chip timed races. Age group awards will be based on chip (net) time and will be distributed to the top three finishers (male and female) in the Half Marathon, 15K and 5K race in each of following the age divisions- 15-18, 19-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75+.
- There will be awards for age division 8-14 for the 5k race only.
- Results for all chip timed events (Half Marathon, 15K, 5K race and 1.5K) will be available after the race at the Result table, just beyond Eat Street, in P&G gardens. Maps will be available. Please visit to pick up your individually printed personal results. Results will also be available online at [www.heartmini.org](http://www.heartmini.org).

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## Packet Pick-up

- **When and where can I pick up my packet?**
- If you are registered prior to or on February 19<sup>th</sup>, your shirt, medal & bib will be mailed to the address you entered at registration.
- Those registered on or after February 20<sup>th</sup> will be able to pick up their shirts & bibs on either Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at Messer Construction or Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> prior to the start of their event. Packet pick-up day of is at the First Financial Building.
  - March 16<sup>th</sup>, Messer Construction (643 W Court St Cincinnati, OH 45203) from 9am-3pm
  - March 17<sup>th</sup>, First Financial Building Lobby (Corner of 5<sup>th</sup> + Sycamore St Downtown Cincinnati) from 6am-11am
- **Can someone else pick up my packet?**
- Yes- for someone else to pick up the packet, the alternate person must present one of the following:
  - Your confirmation email;
  - A signed note from you stating that you are allowing them to pick up your packet.

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## Course Information

- **Are course maps available?**
- Course maps will be available on the website, under 'more details'
- **Do the courses have time limits?**
- For the ½ marathon you must be able to maintain a 13 min/mile pace. If you reach the 9 mile mark after 9:30 am, you will finish on the 15K course. We are so sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. For the 15K + 5k race course, there is no time limit. You are allowed to walk the 15k and 5k race.
- **Are pacers available to help me achieve a goal finishing time?**
- Yes, pacers will be available for both the ½ and the 15K to help you reach your goal time or train for your next race!
- **How are the courses timed?**
- The ½, 15K, 5K race and 1.5K Kids Run are chip timed. The chip will be attached to the back of your race bib/number.

- **Are the courses USATF certified?**
  - Yes, all courses are USATF certified.
- **How many water stops are on the course?**
  - For the 1/2 marathon, there will be 4 water stops. For the 15K, there will be 3 water stops. For the 5K race and walk, there will be 2 water stops.
- **Are headphones allowed?**
  - Yes, but please use headphones at your own risk making sure that you remain aware of directions from traffic control personnel as well as the safety of yourself and other runners.
- **Am I allowed to push a stroller?**
  - Strollers and baby joggers are permitted on the course, but please, LINE UP AT THE BACK OF THE STARTING AREA and be aware of your surroundings, the safety of your rider and other race participants.
- **Can I participate if I'm in a wheelchair?**
  - Yes! If participating in the Half-Marathon you will need to maintain at least an 13-min mile. We also ask that you start towards the back of the crowd to ensure your safety and the safety of those around you. Safety is our #1 priority on event day. There is no discount, or wheelchair race division, but all are welcome and encouraged to join us! If you have a true "street racing wheelchair" please contact [heartmini@heart.org](mailto:heartmini@heart.org) so that we can coordinate your start time.
- **Can I bring my dog?**
  - No, sorry! We love animals, but they are not allowed on the courses unless they are assisting visually or otherwise physically impaired participants. Our race area (start + finish line) is very crowded and not a suitable area for animals!
- **How do I follow along with my friend who is running the Half Marathon or 15K?**
  - We are excited to launch the Tracx App! Search 'Tracx- the event app' in your App Store or Play Store. Once downloaded, search 'Heart' and select Heart Mini. Click Join event. This will allow you to view all registered Half Marathon & 15K participants on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Watch them from the comfort of your own home or check the app to see what time you should be on the next corner to cheer them on!
  - Unfortunately, the tracking app is not available for the 5k race, 5k walk, Steps for Stroke, or the 1.5k kids race.
- **Is there an inclement weather policy?**
  - Your safety is our priority. In the event of severe weather- including lightning, high winds, or extreme heat or cold- the Race Director has the discretion to delay the start time or cancel the race prior to or during the race.

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## Event Day Information

- ♥ **Is there a hotel block?**
  - ♥ Yes! Hilton Netherland Plaza, Saturday March 16<sup>th</sup> hotel block.
  - ♥ Please call and let them know you are booking with American Heart Association Heart Mini hotel block or follow this link <https://group.hilton.com/qm070g>
- ♥ **Is there a bag-check?**
  - ♥ Yes! We offer a bag-check (inside a school bus) for all your belongings that you don't want to run with.
- ♥ **Is there an indoor area to rest or use the bathrooms?**
  - ♥ No, unfortunately there is no indoor area to hang-out before your race. We offer portalets but there are no indoor bathrooms for the general public.
  - ♥ Our top fundraising coaches + survivors are invited to a VIP breakfast where indoor bathrooms are available. Wristbands to get into VIP breakfast will be mailed to your house on event week.
- ♥ **Will there be activities for kids?**
  - ♥ Yes! There is a kid's zone for children on Sycamore St (between 5<sup>th</sup> + 6<sup>th</sup> St)! Stop by to see the new area! There is also a community team area on Broadway St (between 5<sup>th</sup> + 6<sup>th</sup> St) with other fun activities + food!

- ♥ ***Is there food offered?***
    - ♥ There is water along the course.
    - ♥ At the Community Team zone + Eat Street there are more snacks, fruit, and water for everyone to grab.
  - ♥ ***Is there merchandise we can buy?***
    - ♥ YES! This year we are offering Mini merch through Promospark. [Home | Heart Mini Shop \(mybrightsites.com\)](#)
    - ♥ You can order online + choose to ship to your house or you can pick-up on March 16<sup>th</sup> at our packet pick-up at Messer Construction. We are not offering pick-up on the day of the event.
    - ♥ There will be a limited variety of products + sizes on the day-of for you to buy but highly recommend ordering online!
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### **Fundraising Information**

- **When is the last day to turn in my donations?**
- To receive credit to the online store, donations must be turned in by April 26th to allow for entry. Otherwise, we will continue to accept donations through June 30th. Any received after June 30th, will be credited towards next year's event.
- **The Heart Hero Rewards Center** can only be accessed by logging into your participant center. Once you hit a threshold, your points total should update within a few hours.